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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES }

REPORT  
No. 1790

## IRFAN KAWAR

FEBRUARY 21, 1956.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed

Mr. FEIGHAN, from the Committee on the Judiciary,  
submitted the following

### REPORT

[To accompany S. 1483]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1483) for the relief of Irfan Kawar, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

#### PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to grant the status of permanent residence in the United States to Irfan Kawar. The bill provides for an appropriate quota deduction and for the payment of the required visa fee.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

The beneficiary of the bill is a 29-year-old native and citizen of Palestine who was born in Nazareth, Palestine, which is now under the control of the State of Israel. He last entered the United States at New York on September 24, 1951, as an exchange student. Prior to his entry into the United States he studied for 4 years at St. John's College, Oxford, England, and appears to be a displaced person. He is presently doing graduate work at the Washington Dumbarton Oaks Institute of Harvard University.

A letter, with attached memorandum, dated January 7, 1954, to the then chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary from the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization with reference to S. 1342, which was a bill passed by the Senate in the 83d Congress for the relief of the same alien, reads as follows:

JANUARY 7, 1954.

HON. WILLIAM LANGER,  
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,*  
*United States Senate, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SENATOR: In response to your request of the Department of Justice for a report relative to the bill (S. 1342) for relief of certain named beneficiaries, there is attached a memorandum of information concerning Irfan Kawar, one of the beneficiaries named in the bill. This memorandum has been prepared from the Immigration and Naturalization Service files relating to the beneficiary by the Philadelphia, Pa., office of this Service, which has custody of those files. Separate memoranda of information relating to the other beneficiaries of the bill are being prepared for transmittal to you.

The bill would grant the beneficiaries permanent residence in the United States upon payment of the required visa fees. It also directs the required numbers to be deducted from the appropriate immigration quota.

Irfan Kawar is chargeable to the quota of Israel.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_, *Commissioner.*

MEMORANDUM OF INFORMATION FROM IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION  
 SERVICE FILES RE IRFAN KAWAR, BENEFICIARY OF S. 1342

Irfan Kawar was born in Nazareth, Palestine, which is now in Israel, on January 15, 1926. He is a subject of Jordan. His last residence abroad was at St. John's College, Oxford, England, where he studied for 4 years. He entered the United States at New York, N. Y., on September 24, 1951. He was admitted as an exchange student under section 201 of Public Law 402. He has been granted extensions of stay to April 23, 1954.

Mr. Kawar is taking graduate courses at Princeton University with the view toward obtaining a doctor of philosophy degree. His only employment in the United States has been on the campus. His education is being financed by fellowship grants. He has no other income or assets.

Mr. Kawar has two cousins living in the United States. His mother and one sister reside in Haifa, Israel. He attended the Government Arab College in Jerusalem before going to England.

Senator Langer, the author of the bill, submitted to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, the following letter in connection with the case:

AMERICAN MIDDLE EAST RELIEF, INC.,  
 New York, N. Y., July 2, 1954.

Re Irfan Kawar (S. 1342)

HON. WILLIAM LANGER,  
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,*  
*United States Senate, Washington, D. C.*

I, George M. Barakat, certify to the following:

Irfan Kawar, whose name appears on S. 1342, entered the United States as a student on September 22, 1951, and is presently enrolled at Graduate College Princeton, N. J. He is 28 years of age, having been born in Nazareth, Palestine, on January 15, 1926.

His home in the new section of Jerusalem is now a part of the State of Israel to which his return as an Arab is forbidden by the Israeli authorities. This unfortunate displaced person would welcome an opportunity to start life anew in America.

To the best of my knowledge and belief Mr. Kawar is a person of excellent character and good reputation in his community and I would unreservedly recommend his admission as a permanent resident and prospective American citizen.

Respectfully submitted.

GEORGE M. BARAKAT,  
*Executive Director.*

The committee files also contain the following letter from Mr. John S. Thacher, director, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection of Harvard University:

HARVARD UNIVERSITY,  
THE DUMBARTON OAKS RESEARCH LIBRARY AND COLLECTION,  
Washington, D. C., April 5, 1955.

HON. HARLEY MARTIN KILGORE,  
Senator from West Virginia,  
Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR KILGORE: On March 18 Senator Langer introduced bill S. 1483 in order to give Irfan Kawar permanent status in this country, as you will see from the enclosed copy of the bill. As Mr. Kawar is a fellow at Dumbarton Oaks, Harvard University, I am taking the liberty of writing to ask whether you could do anything to expedite the passage of this bill, which I understand is before the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee of which you are the chairman.

I would be very happy to come to your office and discuss this matter with you if you would like to see me.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN S. THACHER, *Director.*

The committee received the following additional information in support of this bill:

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,  
COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE,  
Los Angeles, Calif., December 8, 1955.

HON. FRANCIS E. WALTER,  
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. WALTER: Please permit me to take this opportunity to lay before you a matter of real importance to the University of California which I discussed with Congressman Hillings this morning, and which I understand will come before your Committee on the Judiciary soon after the 85th Congress convenes.

This concerns Senate bill No. 1483, a bill introduced by Senator Langer in the 84th Congress and passed by the Senate in May 1955, establishing American citizenship for Dr. Irfan Kawar. The Congress adjourned last July before action was taken on this bill, but if I am not mistaken, it will be on Congress' agenda early in the 85th session.

The university recently established at Los Angeles a Near Eastern studies program. I am sure that you and other members of the committee appreciate how important it is for our American universities to conduct special studies and research in this critical area of the world.

After a nationwide search during the past year, we felt that Dr. Kawar was the best qualified to take up this work with us. Dr. Kawar's place in this program is crucial to us inasmuch as only a few scholars are trained and qualified to teach the Arabic language and literature part of this program. His appointment for the academic year 1955-56 was originally to the position of acting instructor in Arabic, but already we have reevaluated his qualifications and are promoting him to the rank of assistant professor.

We are anxious for an early passing of Senate bill No. 1483, and sincerely hope that you and the other members of the Committee on the Judiciary will do all within your power to extend American citizenship to Dr. Kawar. Enclosed is a summary statement of the citizenship problem presented by Dr. Kawar. If the chairman of the committee desires any further information in support of this matter, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

PAUL A. DODD, *Dean.*

#### SENATE BILL 1483

(1) The bill was introduced by Senator Langer in the 84th Congress, was passed by the Senate in May 1955 and sent to the House. It had been introduced previously in the 83d Congress and was passed by the Senate, but Congress adjourned before action was taken on the bill.

(2) The House Subcommittee on Immigration considered the bill in June and raised the question of my being an exchange student. Since I have never been an exchange student I was asked to submit proof to substantiate the claim. At the same time I was advised to file an application for permanent residence under the Relief Act of 1953 as an administrative remedy. In a letter dated June 17, Mr. Walter said that the subcommittee would consider the bill only if the administrative remedy was not available.

(3) The Commissioner of Immigration ruled that I was ineligible, since the relief act envisages the accommodation of persons who fear persecution and advised me later that the type of visa issued to me in London makes me ineligible for the adjustment of status under that law.

(4) In the meantime I prepared the documentary evidence for the fact that I have never been an exchange student. This took the form of three letters: The first from the Department of State itself, the second from Princeton, the third from Harvard. The originals of these are in the files of the subcommittee and I possess photostat copies of them.

(5) The delay caused by the attempt to seek an administrative remedy left little time for the subcommittee to reconsider the bill before adjournment. Representative Walter wrote me on July 27 that he would give it his early attention next session.

#### THE VALIDITY OF MY CASE

The validity of my case for permanent residence rests on three facts:

1. I am a Palestinian Christian Arab refugee who lost his country as a result of the Arab-Jewish war, which broke out while I was a student at Oxford. My only link with the Near East is a Jordanian passport, issued to me in London a month before sailing to the United States, only as a travel document to facilitate my entry as a student to Princeton. It expires in August 1956.

2. On the positive side, I am a professor of Arabic and Arabic literature at UCLA, responsible for the Arabic section in the program of Near Eastern studies, having had my education at Oxford and Princeton. Dean Dodd's letter will have explained my position in the program.

3. The case for having special legislation enacted rests on the fact that no administrative remedy is available.

#### APPENDIX

In view of the fact that the type of visa that was given me has caused the delay in the final passage of my bill, I am appending here a more detailed statement on the matter.

The exchange student visa granted me in London was an unfortunate mistake and my visa should actually have been a student visa. During my last year of study at Oxford University, I was awarded a fellowship by Princeton University in March 1951 in response to a private application to that university. I arrived in this country in September 1951, having paid for my passage from England from my own private funds. Since then I have been a private student with no connection with the exchange program, and have been supported by fellowships from Princeton University, 1951-54, and Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, and have never received any grants from the United States Government or any other government for the purpose of study in the United States. Explicit documentary evidence is enclosed in the form of three statements: the first from the Department of State, which runs the exchange program; the second from Princeton University; the third from Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection. These three statements will make clear that my fellowships were not under any exchange basis. Indeed, at the time I received my fellowship from Princeton in March 1951, I was the citizen of no country. Palestine, the country of which I was a citizen, had ceased to exist as a political entity after the war there of 1948. I therefore could not have possibly been part of an exchange program since such a program assumes the existence of a country with which the United States Government can make the exchange.

Upon consideration of all the facts in this case, the committee is of the opinion that S. 1483 should be enacted and accordingly recommends that the bill do pass.

